DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 456 046 SE 065 161

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| AUTHOR | Halversen, Catherine; Beals, Kevin; Strang, Craig |
| TITLE | Ocean Currents: Marine Science Activities for Grades 5-8. Teacher's Guide. |
| INSTITUTION | California Univ., Berkeley. Lawrence Hall of Science. |
| ISBN | ISBN-0924886-44-7 |
| PUB DATE | 2001-00-00 |
| NOTE | 174p.; Grant provided by the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California and the Boeing Corporation (originally McDonnell-Douglas Foundation and Employees Community Fund). |
| AVAILABLE FROM | University of California, Berkeley, GEMS, Lawrence Hall of Science #5200, Berkeley, CA 94720-5200 ($21). Tel: 510-642-7771; e-mail: gems@uclink4.berkeley.edu; Web site: www.lhsgems.org. |
| PUB TYPE | Books (010) -- Guides - Non-Classroom (055) |
| EDRS PRICE | Document Not Available from EDRS. |
| DESCRIPTORS | Elementary Education; Elementary School Science; Environmental Influences; Middle Schools; Oceanography; *Science Activities; *Science Instruction; *Scientific Concepts; Teaching Methods; Water Pollution |

ABSTRACT

This teacher's guide attempts to answer questions such as: What causes ocean currents? What impact do they have on Earth's environment? and How have they influenced human history? Seven innovative activities are provided in which students can gain fascinating insights into the earth as the ocean planet. Activities focus on how wind, temperature, salinity, and density set water into motion. An "in-depth" investigation of the key physical science concept of density in which students model how pollution dumped in one location can spread throughout the ocean is also included. Learning is placed in a real-world context as students predict and analyze routes taken by shipwrecked sailors, the 1990 Nike shoe spill, the raft Kon Tiki, and other voyages. In the seventh activity, "Message in a Bottle," students create stories to show what they have learned over the course of the unit. (ASK)

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